

FINE SPOTSYLVANIA

The Wilderness Full of Noble Game.

MANY DEER HAVE BEEN SHOT.

Amusing Incidents that Have Taken Place with Deer Hunters.

Fox Hunting and Birds.

HOLLADAY, VA., Dec. 23.—Special.—Spotylvania, otherwise the wilderness, still remains the habitat of that noble game, the deer, and many fine ones have been gathered in by the Nimrods of this ancient county during the present season. They are more plentiful than for years past. During the spring various small farmers along the small creeks in the county were greatly troubled by the deer grazing the young wheat before grass had come, but they were much too public-spirited to shoot them at that time. The deer seem to prefer the middle ridges of the county about half way between the Rappahannock and North Anna, during the summer, but whenever the cry of the hounds begins to get hot and near, they always strike for one or the other of these rivers, or the Rappahannock.

WHERE THEY ARE KILLED. The most of the kills have been made on or near the North Anna this season, and some quite amusing incidents have occurred to deer hunters. Amongst others, Mr. R. V. Groves, who is one of the finest farmers, as well as an ardent sportsman, and always gets a lion's share of the shooting, got the laugh on him a few days since. Having shot at a deer, and following the dogs at full speed, or as well as he could through the brush and timber, he heard some one yelling "there she is," and the dogs baying and apparently just eating up something. He jumped from his horse, and let it with-out tling, and after running and crawling for several hundred yards through brush and bamboo briars, etc., he arrived at the scene, streaming with sweat, out of breath, and completely exhausted, and scratched in a dozen places, to find a man with a lot of cur dogs catching an old sow.

To make the matter worse, his horse had galloped on after the hounds following the deer, and his sportsman had to walk home, some five or six miles, whilst the others bagged the deer and led his horse home that night.

SHOT A CROOKED GUN. On another occasion, a man was thrown from his horse and got his fine gun barrels badly bent, but in the excitement did not know of the injury until he had shot about a dozen times at turkeys and birds, missing them all with readiness and despatch, something never before in his experience. At last, realizing the trouble, he hurried to Richmond and got the barrels straightened, and is again the champion shot.

Mr. Ned Cammack and the deer hunters had a piece of bad luck that never had been known before. While the pack was in full cry after a deer, and he was at a stand waiting, a lady and child came by and walked down a by-path to be out of the way. Before they had gone far the deer ran up the path, and in twenty seconds the hunter and stood erect, by between hunter and them for several seconds, then bounded into the thick brush, out of sight at a single leap.

It was impossible to shoot without striking the lady and child, and all he could do was to stand there and make a few remarks appropriate for the occasion, but not for publication.

FOX HUNTING. Hugh G. Dickinson, of Belmont, has a splendid pack of fox hounds, and P. D. Taylor a lovely lot of beagles. These, Coleman, of Spotsylvania Courthouse, has recently bought the fine pack of fox hounds formerly owned by Winston Bros., of Apple Grove, in Louisa, where they have a fine game preserve well stocked with game, including Mongrels, pheasants, and quail.

Winston Bros. are the contractors who have the work on James river at Richmond. Mr. Coleman has been having great sport with foxes, which are extremely plentiful around Spotsylvania Courthouse, and the weather has been very favorable up to this time for killing. Of which they have made a great many. Of which there is a decided scarcity; even rabbits are few, owing to the cold weather last winter and the large crop of foxes. Wild turkeys are also scarcer than usual in this county and partridges are practically absent. The weather has been so mild that blue birds and wrens have been singing in the sunshine and farm work, such as fencin and plowing, has been going on without interruption.

Mr. A. B. Chandler, Jr., of Bowling Green, will deliver a lecture here next week on "Women in History," for the benefit of the Mary Washington Hospital.

RABBITS PLENTIFUL. Rabbits, where there are no foxes, will quickly become very plentiful, but partridges and pheasants are slow to retrieve their losses. Wild ducks are, and have been, scarce for some years on the creeks and mill ponds. We hear of rather a remarkable case of wild duck at Holladay, Va. There are two genuine mallard wild ducks, which stay with the ducks of the same name, and are now, after two months, as gentle as the tame ones; coming up to the house to be fed and flying to be fed when called, coming out on the ground from the pond to eat corn in a few feet of any one they know. They are very tame, and it is quite surprising to see them flying round and then coming back when called, and then walking around the yard as calm and unconcerned as the chickens. It would be a great pity for these ducks to be killed. Some years since, there was one which was tame, and it was said for a long time with this same flock, but was killed by a stranger who saw it flying a long way away from the residence and supposed it a wild one.

It is usually supposed that wild ducks are particularly wild and hard to tame, but it would not seem so from these examples, that this is a popular error. Moreover, the writer was told by General Wm. B. Tallaferro some years since, that upon his place was a wild duck which had been tamed and more remarkable still, that it was not less than fifty years old. That wild animals and birds can be easily tamed is certain, but how easily and quickly depends on the case, gentleness and judgment of the man trying the experiment. Several times the writer has taken young, grown squirrels from the woods and in one week had them so gentle that they would come out of their cages and walk about on the table and shoulders of everybody in a room to get something to eat, taking it from the hand with perfect confidence.

What a great pity that more so-called wild animals were not made gentle by kind treatment, and what nice pets they would be, and how much better than they regarded only as fit to be shot.

Fredericksburg Bus. FREDERICKSBURG, VA., Dec. 23.—Special.—Not for years, at this season, has

HAMMOND, FLORIST, 107 East Broad St., Richmond, Va. Plant Decorations, Choice Rosebuds, Cut Flowers, Funeral Designs, &c.

If you have not time to solve this Brain Test, today, cut out this advertisement and save it until you have time. It will be one of the most interesting and profitable things you ever do. TO-MORROW you surely will have a little spare time to solve this great opportunity.

THE PENNY MAGAZINE BRAIN TEST

The Two-Fifths Letter Contest.

PRIZES OF \$500 FOR THE WINNERS.

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EXPERIENCES OF LEMUEL ELY QUIGG

He Tells How He Came Near Making Fifty Thousand Dollars.

NO MONEY MAKING IN POLITICS

He Never Finished a Campaign Without Being from \$8,000 to \$16,500 in Debt—Of Course He Is Afterward Repaid.

NORFOLK, VA., Dec. 23.—Special.—Mr. Lemuel Ely Quigg, of New York, Senator Thomas C. Platt's political right bower, was here this week attending the Seaboard Air Line meeting in Portsmouth.

Mr. Quigg's experiences as Congressman from New York, chairman of the Republican Executive Committee and political manipulator are well worth listening to. He burned an hour the other night in telling a few of those to a party of interested auditors here. A story-teller in the pleasantest sense, the New Yorker was tapped by the press men, and several interesting tales of the vintage of '99 were drawn from him. He told how he came near making \$50,000 once.

"It was when a third schedule was being framed," he said, "I said, let me see what the other committee to get the matter in shape, and worked at it diligently. Interested manufacturers had previously sent in outlines of what they wanted done, and I had arranged the schedule as I thought right, and the bill was ready for the printer, when a manufacturer came into my room. Some how or other he had apparently found out that I was framing the schedule. Shortly after his arrival he laid a bulky envelope on the desk in front of me and started away. I said a minute, I said, let me see what this is. I opened the envelope and took from it fifty one thousand dollar bills, all new ones. I cleared the desk before me and laid the bills out in rows. It was a pretty sight. No green field of which I have read in books, it seemed to me, was half so beautiful.

"My visitor looked at me, I looked at him. Then I said, you know I'm not offended; there is no use pretending that I am offended with a man that offers me anything like that, but you know I can't take it. I shuffled the bills, put them back into the envelope much more slowly than I took them out, I must confess, and handed the package to my visitor. He put the package in his pocket, buttoned his coat, said good evening and started out. I called him back, and I said, started out to tell you that the bill you are interested in is about ready for the printer. The memorandum you sent in of what you thought was proper protection for your industry seemed to me to be about as near fair as I could get it. He said, 'I am prepared to let it go, but I will just like to tell you that the bill you are interested in is about ready for the printer. The memorandum you sent in of what you thought was proper protection for your industry seemed to me to be about as near fair as I could get it. 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